

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 IGA-02 AGR-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 HEW-04 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 DHA-02

SCA-01 USIA-06 IO-13 SCS-03 /066 W

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R 301546Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3683

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY LOME

INFO AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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ALSO FOR AID; AID/W PASS COKER (AFR/CAWA), FFP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EALR, EAID, EPEP, GH

SUBJ: UPPER REGION FOOD SHORTAGES

REF: A. ACCRA 5035, B. ACCRA 5592

SUMMARY: UPPER REGION DROUGHT/FOOD SHORTAGES CONFIRMED, SITUATION EXPECTED CONTINUE THROUGH NOVEMBER WITH LONGER-TERM IMPLICATIONS. EXTERNAL FOOD INPUTS SENSITIVE ISSUE. GOG CONCURS INCREASE FFP, UNICEF FOOD SUPPLY BAWKU DISTRICT. GOG SURVEY IN PROCESS. ANTICIPATE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FFP INPUTS OTHER DISTRICTS. END SUMMARY.

2. USAID/CRS/UNICEF FIELD SURVEY NAVRONGO/BAWKU DISTRICT (UPPER REGION) CONFIRMS SERIOUS DROUGHT/EARLY MILLET CROP FAILURE/FOOD SHORTAGES NOW REPEAT NOW EXPECTED TO CONTINUE INTO NOVEMBER. LATE MILLET CROP ALSO AFFECTED BY LACK OF RAINS YET HOPEFUL NOVEMBER
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HARVEST WILL PROVIDE SOME RELIEF. UNCONFIRMED REPORTS FROM AREAS

BORDERING NORTHEAST GHANA INDICATE SITUATION SIMILAR. REQUEST REGIONAL FFP OFFICE ABIDJAN, USAID/OUAGADOUGOU AND LOME FIELD ASSESSMENT AND COMMENTS CONDITIONS CONTINGUOUS BORDER AREAS.

3. SITUATION DISCUSSED WITH GOG, MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING, WHICH WELCOMES USAID EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR BAWKU DISTRICT TO BE PROVIDED IN A LOW-KEY WAY REPEAT LOW-KEY WAY. LOW PROFILE REQUIREMENT BY GOG RESTRICTS COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING OF U.S. INPUTS TO MEET TOTAL REQUIREMENTS. HOWEVER, USAID WILL CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS WITH GOG REGARDING ADDITIONAL U.S. FOOD INPUTS FEASIBLE UNDER CURRENT CONSTRAINTS.

4. USAID HAS AGREED TO REQUEST ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY SHIPMENT 25,000 BAGS SORGHUM ABOVE 16,000 BAGS ALREADY BEING DISTRIBUTED IN BAWKU DISTRICT. CRS AGREES TO DIRECT AND COORDINATE DISTRIBUTION ADDITIONAL 6,000 BAGS/MONTH (AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER) FOR TOTAL 24,000/25,000 BAGS BUT REQUIRES REPLACEMENT STOCK NLT SEPTEMBER FOR OTHER ONGOING PROGRAMS.

5. FYI. NUTRITION UNIT, BAWKU DISTRICT, REPORTS TO GOG, USAID, UNICEF AND OTHER INTERESTED AGENCIES CITE NEED FOR 12,000 TONS OVER FOUR-FIVE MONTH PERIOD. THIS ESTIMATE UNEVALUATED. UNICEF PLANS EMERGENCY FOOD INPUTS UNDER AGREEMENT WITH MINISTRY OF HEALTH, NUTRITION DIVISION TO INCLUDE NFDM AND UNSPECIFIED AMOUNT CEREALS (PROBABLY ROLLED OATS). END FYI.

6. REPORTED SITUATION IN NAVRONGO DISTRICT SIMILAR TO BAWKU DISTRICT BUT SURVEILLANCE AND REPORTING SYSTEM LEAVES MUCH TO BE DESIRED. HOWEVER, DIRECTOR, NUTRITION DIVISION, MOH NOW REPEAT NOW SURVEYING UPPER REGION. ANTICIPATE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY FOOD FOR OTHER AFFECTED AREAS. EXPECT ASSESSMENT COMPLETED O/A AUGUST 10 WHEN MOH DIRECTOR RETURNS FROM FIELD VISIT. IN INTERIM, CRS PLANS INCREASE STOCKS FROM AVAILABLE PL 480 SUPPLIES, SELECTED CHURCH AND GOVERNMENT CLINICS NOW REPEAT NOW DISTRIBUTING PL 480 FOODS. SITUATION REMAINS FLUID AND APPEARS TO BE LONG-TERM PROBLEM, POSSIBLY EXTENDING INTO CY'77. USAID PLANNING AUGUST FOLLOW-UP FIELD SURVEY. WILL ADVISE.

DECON JULY 30, 1978.
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